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determined subspecies of the Hudsonian group is evidence of the need of such a term under such conditions. But the task of making the average amateur understand the use of the more or less abstract specific designation when each "variety" has its own latin name is not an easy one. He wishes to use a name for a concrete thing not for a group, so that unless we abandon subspecies entirely we doubt the practicability of using specific vernacular names.—WITMER STONE.]

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. EDWARD PIERSON RAMSAY, of Sydney, Australia, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1884, died at his home in Truro, near Sydney, December 16, 1916, at the age of 74. He was born at Dobroyde House near Sydney in 1842. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society, a Fellow of the Linnæan Society, an honorary member of the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria and for twenty years, from 1874 to 1895, curator of the Australian Museum in Sydney. He was one of the leading Australian ornithologists of his time and was also interested in botany and entomology.

His first paper on birds entitled 'On the *Didunculus strigirostris*, or Tooth-billed Pigeon from Upolo,' appeared in the 'Ibis' in 1864 and during the next 30 years he published many papers on zoölogy. The list of his publications in the 'Royal Society's Catalogue of Scientific Papers' numbers 120 titles and most of them relate to birds. His earlier contributions appeared in the 'Ibis' and the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London,' but after 1877 he published most of his papers in the 'Proceedings of the Linnæan Society of New South Wales' and in the 'Records of the Australian Museum.' One of his best known publications on ornithology was his 'Tabular List of all Australian Birds at present known' issued in two editions in 1878 and 1888. He was also author of 'Notes on Food Fishes and Edible Mollusca of New South Wales,' 1883, and of a number of short papers on mammals and fishes.

In commemoration of his work a genus, *Ramsayornis* Mathews, 1912, and at least 10 species of birds and two of mammals have been named in his honor.—T. S. P.

NEWELL A. EDDY became an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1885, and retained his membership for a long series of years.

He died at his home in Bay City, Michigan, on February 28, 1917.

Mr. Eddy was born in Bangor, Maine, May 20, 1856, being the son of

Jonathan and Caroline (Bailey) Eddy. His father was one of the leading lumber manufacturers of Maine, and was descended from the Rev. William Eddy, a vicar of Cranbrook, County of Kent, England, whose son, Samuel settled in Plymouth Colony in 1630. His great grandfather Col. Jonathan Eddy, served with distinction in the Revolutionary war.

Mr. Eddy received his education in the public schools at Bangor, at Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., and at Yale College, from which he graduated in the class of 1879. He was married in February, 1880, to Marianna, daughter of Dr. Edward M. Field, of Bangor, Me. His wife and six children survive him.

Mr. Eddy was an authority on bird life in Michigan, and had in his possession what was said to be the largest collection of birds in the State, all of which he had collected and mounted himself, and he had assisted in the publication of works on Michigan birds.

He was a member of the Bay City school board for six years, and was an officer of various business and financial companies.—H. M.

GUSTAV ADOLPH LINK, Assistant Preparator in the taxidermic department of the Carnegie Museum, died at Pittsburgh, Pa., on August 16, 1916, from the effects of a bite accidentally received on the preceding day from a captive rattlesnake. Mr. Link was born in Pittsburgh on May 15, 1860, and became interested in collecting and preserving birds at an early age, forming a very creditable collection of the local species. In 1898 he joined the staff of the Carnegie Museum as assistant in the taxidermic laboratory, where, working under the direction of Mr. Frederic S. Webster, he mounted by far the largest part of the single specimens of birds now on exhibition in the gallery of birds of that institution. Many of the mounted reptiles, too, are examples of his work. Mr. Link was a member of a party from the Carnegie Museum which went to Texas in the summer of 1907 to collect reptiles, in which he was very successful. He collected reptiles also in the Isle of Pines in May and June, 1910, and was sent to the same locality again in 1912 to collect birds, his stay lasting from June of that year until May of the next. The large and representative collection which he brought back formed the basis of the present writer's paper on the ornithology of this island, recently published in the 'Annals of the Carnegie Museum' (Vol. X, 1916, pp. 146-296). Mr. Link's perseverance and enthusiasm, in spite of the many difficulties under which he labored, served him in good stead in bringing to a successful conclusion the various projects in which he engaged, and the tragic manner of his taking off was a great shock to his many friends both in and outside of the institution where he spent so many years of faithful service.—W. E. C. T.

NORMAN DEWITT BETTS, an associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1908 and a contributor to 'The Auk', was killed by lightning on his ranch in northeastern Utah, on May 21, 1917.

He was born in New York City on July 21, 1880. His parents, both

dead, were John McEwen and Ellen Scofield Betts. His first schooling was received at Welton Academy and Chases Academy at Norwalk, Conn. From there he went to Cornell where he graduated as a mechanical engineer. After holding a position in New York in the Westinghouse Company he followed the call of the West and landed on the ranch of a friend in Utah where he learned to love the semi-wilderness which was so dear to him afterwards.

Joining the Forestry Service he was engaged in field and laboratory work in Lafayette, Ind., St. Louis, Mo., Boulder, Col., and Madison, Wis., but routine work did not satisfy his active spirit, and leaving Madison in the summer of 1916 he bought a ranch adjoining that of his friend in Uintah County, Utah, fifty miles from the railroad, and settled down to the life of a rancher. He was on horseback in company with a herder who was bringing in some sheep when a storm overtook them not far from home. Mr. Betts received the full force of the bolt and was killed instantly as was his horse and that of the herder but the latter was only stunned and recovered. Mr. Betts was buried at Walden, N. Y., beside his parents.

His first ornithological contributions were published in 'The Auk' and 'Bird-Lore' in 1909 and 1910, and he continued to send in his observations on the birds of Colorado, Wisconsin and Montana to these journals and 'The Condor' every year until his removal to Utah. His most important publication was his 'List of the Birds of Boulder Co., Colo.' (see Auk, 1914, p. 416).

Whoever had the good fortune of Mr. Betts' acquaintance will miss him sorely, for his character was exemplary and his personality most charming. Ornithology itself sustains a real loss, for having trained himself for efficient bird study in the most difficult fields he was at the point of doing much valuable work in the little known region of his new home.— O. W.

SAMUEL THORNE, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, from 1908 to 1915, died July 4, 1915, in his 80th year. He was born in Dutchess County, N. Y., Sept. 6, 1835, and in early life was a farmer and breeder of improved stock at Thorndale, N. Y. From 1868 to 1872 he was engaged with his brothers in New York in tanning and selling leather. He retired from this business in 1872 and in his later years became a director in several railroads and banks, and in the New York Life Insurance and Trust Company. Mr. Thorne was a patron of science and was deeply interested in the New York Botanical Garden and the New York Zoölogical Society. As one of the early members of the Executive Committee he took an active part in the constructive work of the Zoölogical Park, and at the time of his death he was Vice-President of the Zoölogical Society.— T. S. P.

AMONG the deceased members of the A. O. U. whose obituaries have not been published in 'The Auk' is Henry Warden Marsden, an associate from 1904 to 1914, who died at Pacific Grove, Calif., Feb. 26, 1914, at the age of

57. Readers will find in 'The Condor (Vol. XVI, pp. 202-204, Sept., 1914), an interesting sketch of his life by Dr. Louis B. Bishop, with an account of his work and a list of his papers.

ON July 28, 1916, the Sociedad Ornithologica del Plata was organized at Buenos Aires, Argentina. Dr. Roberto Dabbene was chosen president of the society and Sr. Pedro Serie, secretary.

THE Council and Mayor of Youngstown, Ohio, have decreed that the new reservoir with its adjacent shores shall be a game preserve with all hunting and trapping prohibited. Inasmuch as this reservoir has a surface area of 2700 acres and is six miles long and in places is over a mile in width, is located seventeen miles from the city, and is the largest inland body of water in northeastern Ohio, its value as a protected reserve for birds can readily be appreciated.

The municipal authorities of Youngstown are certainly to be congratulated for their far-sightedness and their understanding of the need for wild life protection. We wish more of our cities had officials with the same appreciation of such matters.

MR. W. DEWITT MILLER, Associate Curator of Ornithology in the American Museum of Natural History, accompanied by Mr. Ludlow Griscom, reached Corinto, Nicaragua, March 10th, on an American Museum expedition to acquire a field knowledge of Nicaraguan birds. They were met and guided in Nicaragua by Mr. William B. Richardson, a resident of that country, who had collected much in tropical America for the Museum. Mr. Miller writes under date of May 2nd: 'We have . . . traveled hundreds of miles on muleback, done some collecting and made many observations of interest. We already have several species new to Nicaragua . . . including *Euphonia elegantissima*, previously known both from Mexico and from Costa Rica but not between . . . One of the most interesting birds we have met is *Megaquiscalus nicaraquensis* . . . the most abundant bird about the village of Tipitapa . . . Besides skins of ♂ and ♀ we have nests, eggs and photographs. This species is confined to these two Nicaraguan lakes.' The party visited as many diverse parts of the country as possible, and expected to sail for home about June 1st.

MR. W. E. CLYDE TODD headed an expedition to the interior of Labrador which left Pittsburgh in May, to collect birds and mammals for the Carnegie Museum.

ON April 20, Mr. John Hall Sage, Secretary of the American Ornithologists' Union was the guest of Dr. A. K. Fisher, at the camp of the Washington Biologists' Field Club, at Plummer's Island in the Potomac near Washington, D. C., where they were joined by sixteen other fellows and members of the Union who gathered there in honor of Mr. Sage's seventieth

birthday. We are sure that the entire membership of the A. O. U. which he has served so long and faithfully will endorse the action of the Plummer's Island gathering in wishing him many happy returns of the day.

MR. HARRY S. SWARTH of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoölogy at Berkeley, Calif., is now in southern Arizona studying the breeding birds of the region between Phoenix and Globe along the 'Apache Trail'. As a result of this trip Mr. Swarth will doubtless be able to supplement the notes in his 'List of the Birds of Arizona' on the local distribution of some of the species which occur in this part of the State.

As an illustration of the vital interest that is being taken throughout the country in the passage of the Migratory Bird Treaty Enabling Act; and as an example to other associations and individuals who have not yet written to their representatives in Congress, it gives us great pleasure to announce that at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Association of Game and Fish Commissioners held at Washington, D. C., on the 13th day of June, 1917, present, M. L. Alexander, President; Carlos Avery, Secretary; John P. Woods, Treasurer; J. Quincy Ward, Geo. H. Graham, and W. E. Barber, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, There is pending in Congress a bill (S. 1553 — H. R. 2612) to give effect to the migratory bird treaty between the United States and Great Britain for the protection of migratory game and insectivorous birds in the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, The conservation and protection of the migratory insectivorous birds is so closely related to the conservation of the food, cotton and timber crops of the country, and the migratory game birds constitute an important source of the food supply, the conservation of which is so necessary to the success of the United States and her Allies in the war upon which we are now engaged;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, It is the sense of the Executive Committee of the National Association of Game and Fish Commissioners that the said bill is and should be considered an important war measure, and we respectfully recommend the immediate passage of said bill by Congress as one of the most effective means of conserving the resources so necessary for the welfare of the country;

RESOLVED FURTHER, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the President of the United States, to each Member in Congress, and to the Secretary of Agriculture.

JUST as we go to press we are in receipt of an important work by Dr. W. H. Bergtold entitled 'A Study of the Incubation Periods of Birds,' published by The Kendrick-Bellamy Co. of Denver, Colorado. It will be duly noticed in the October Auk.